

Amendment and Response

Serial No.: 09/768,748

Confirmation No.: 3864

Filed: January 24, 2001

For: COMPUTER-BASED MULTI-MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND METHOD

Page 2 of 31

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-identified application:

1. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus comprising:

~~a modem at line interface operable for communication over a communications medium;~~
one or more storage devices operable to store outgoing digital audio information and
store other multi-media data components; and
processing and control circuitry operable under control of a user interface program,
wherein the processing and control circuitry is operable to:

receive stored outgoing digital audio information,
combine the stored outgoing digital audio information with one or more other
stored multi-media data components resulting in combined outgoing multi-media mail,
and
provide the combined outgoing multi-media mail to the line interface for
communication to a remote location via the modem for connection to at least one packet
switched network.

2. (Currently Amended) The communication apparatus of claim 1, wherein the communication apparatus further comprises a voice interface apparatus for use in generating local analog voice signals from a local user representative of a voice message and for use in conveying audio signals to the local user, and wherein the processing and control circuitry is further operable to convert the local analog voice signals into outgoing digital voice information representative of the voice message, wherein the outgoing digital voice information representative of the voice message is provided for storage as the outgoing digital audio information, and further wherein the processing and control circuitry is operable to combine the stored outgoing digital voice information representative of the voice message with one or more of the other stored multi-

Amendment and Response

Serial No.: 09/768,748

Confirmation No.: 3864

Filed: January 24, 2001

For: COMPUTER-BASED MULTI-MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND METHOD

Page 3 of 31

media data components resulting in the combined outgoing multi-media ~~mail~~ for communication via the modem line interface to a the remote location.

3. (Currently Amended) The communication apparatus of claim 2, wherein the processing and control circuitry is further operable to compress the outgoing digital voice information representative of the voice message, wherein the compressed outgoing digital voice information representative of the voice message is provided for storage as the outgoing digital audio information, and further wherein the processing and control circuitry is operable to combine the stored compressed outgoing digital voice information representative of the voice message with one or more of the other stored multi-media data components resulting in the combined outgoing multi-media ~~mail~~ for communication via the modem line interface to a remote location.

4. (Original) The communication apparatus of claim 1, wherein the one or more other stored multi-media data components comprise at least one of textual information and graphical information.

5. (Original) The communication apparatus of claim 4, wherein the graphical information comprises at least one of picture information and video information.

6. (Original) The communication apparatus of claim 1, wherein the outgoing digital audio information comprises at least one file of outgoing digital audio information.

7. (Original) The communication apparatus of claim 6, wherein the outgoing digital audio information comprises at least one file of outgoing compressed digital voice information.

8. (Currently Amended) The communication apparatus of claim 1, wherein the processing and control circuitry is operable to provide a display interface to a user comprising user selectable functions to allow the user to control the creation of the combined outgoing multi-media ~~mail~~.

Amendment and Response

Serial No.: 09/768,748

Confirmation No.: 3864

Filed: January 24, 2001

For: COMPUTER-BASED MULTI-MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND METHOD

Page 4 of 31

9. (Original) The communication apparatus of claim 8, wherein the user selectable functions comprise at least one of a composing function, a viewing function, an editing function, a playing function, a recording function, and a deleting function.

10. (Currently Amended) The communication apparatus of claim 1, wherein the processing and control circuitry is operable to provide a display interface to a user comprising user selectable functions to allow the user to select a destination for the combined outgoing multi-media mail.

11. (Currently Amended) The communication apparatus of claim 1, wherein the processing and control circuitry is further operable to:

receive incoming multi-media mail comprising incoming digital audio information and one or more other incoming multi-media data components via the modem line interface; and

store the incoming digital audio information and the one or more other incoming multi-media data components of the incoming multi-media mail in the one or more storage devices.

12. (Currently Amended) The communication apparatus of claim 11, wherein the processing and control circuitry is further operable for use in conveying the incoming multi-media mail to a local user.

13. (Currently Amended) The communication apparatus of claim 12, wherein conveying the incoming multi-media mail to the local user comprises displaying at least one of the one or more other incoming multi-media data components of the incoming multi-media mail to the local user.

14. (Currently Amended) The communication apparatus of claim 12, wherein conveying the incoming multi-media mail to the local user comprises converting the incoming digital audio information of the incoming multi-media mail to local analog audio signals for conveyance to the local user.

Amendment and Response

Serial No.: 09/768,748

Confirmation No.: 3864

Filed: January 24, 2001

For: COMPUTER-BASED MULTI-MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND METHOD

Page 5 of 31

15. (Currently Amended) The communication apparatus of claim 12, wherein the processing and control circuitry is further operable for use in conveying at least one of the incoming digital audio information and the one or more other incoming multi-media data components of the incoming multi-media mail to another remote location.

16. (Currently Amended) The communication apparatus of claim 11, wherein the processing and control circuitry is further operable for use in modifying at least a portion of at least one of the incoming digital audio information and the one or more other incoming multi-media data components of the incoming multi-media mail.

17. (Original) The communication apparatus of claim 11, wherein the one or more other incoming multi-media data components comprise at least one of textual information and graphical information.

18. (Original) The communication apparatus of claim 17, wherein the graphical information comprises at least one of picture information and video information.

19. (Original) The communication apparatus of claim 11, wherein the incoming digital audio information comprises at least one file of incoming digital audio information.

20. (Original) The communication apparatus of claim 11, wherein the incoming digital audio information comprises at least incoming compressed digital voice information.

21. (Currently Amended) The communication apparatus of claim 11, wherein the processing and control circuitry is operable to provide a display interface to a user to notify the user of the receipt of the incoming multi-media mail.

Amendment and Response

Serial No.: 09/768,748

Confirmation No.: 3864

Filed: January 24, 2001

For: COMPUTER-BASED MULTI-MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND METHOD

Page 6 of 31

22. (Currently Amended) The communication apparatus of claim 11, wherein the processing and control circuitry is operable to provide a display interface to a user comprising user selectable functions to allow the user to manipulate the received incoming multi-media mail.

23. (Original) The communication apparatus of claim 22, wherin the user selectable functions comprise at least one of a forwarding function, a viewing function, an editing function, a playing function, a recording function, a storing function, and a deleting function.

24. (Currently Amended) The communication apparatus of claim 1, wherein the modem line interface is operable for full duplex communication over a communication medium.

25. (Currently Amended) A communication method implemented under control of a user interface program, the method comprising:

providing a modem;

providing stored outgoing digital audio information;

combining, under control of a local user via input to the user interface program, the stored outgoing digital audio information with one or more other stored multi-media data components resulting in combined outgoing multi-media mail; and

providing the combined outgoing multi-media mail for communication to a remote location via the modem for connection to at least one packet switched network.

26. (Currently Amended) The communication method of claim 25, wherein providing stored outgoing digital audio information comprises:

generating local analog voice signals from a local user representative of a voice message; and

converting the local analog voice signals into outgoing digital voice information representative of the voice message, wherein the outgoing digital voice information representative of the voice message is combined with one or more of the other stored multi-

Amendment and Response

Serial No.: 09/768,748

Confirmation No.: 3864

Filed: January 24, 2001

For: COMPUTER-BASED MULTI-MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND METHOD

Page 7 of 31

media data components resulting in the combined outgoing multi-media mail for communication to the remote location.

27. (Currently Amended) The communication method of claim 26, wherein providing stored outgoing digital audio information further comprises compressing the outgoing digital voice information representative of the voice message, wherein the compressed outgoing digital voice information representative of the voice message is combined with one or more of the other stored multi-media data components resulting in the combined outgoing multi-media mail for communication to the remote location.

28. (Original) The communication method of claim 25, wherein the one or more other stored multi-media data components comprise at least one of textual information and graphical information.

29. (Original) The communication method of claim 28, wherein the graphical information comprises at least one of picture information and video information.

30. (Original) The communication method of claim 25, wherein the outgoing digital audio information comprises at least one file of outgoing digital audio information.

31. (Original) The communication method of claim 30, wherein the outgoing digital audio information comprises at least one file of outgoing compressed digital voice information.

32. (Currently Amended) The communication method of claim 25, wherein the communication method further comprises providing a display interface to a user comprising user selectable functions to allow the user to control the creation of the combined outgoing multi-media mail.

Amendment and Response

Serial No.: 09/768,748

Confirmation No.: 3864

Filed: January 24, 2001

For: COMPUTER-BASED MULTI-MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND METHOD

Page 8 of 31

33. (Original) The communication method of claim 32, wherein the user selectable functions comprise at least one of a composing function, a viewing function, an editing function, a playing function, a recording function, and a deleting function.

34. (Currently Amended) The communication method of claim 25, wherein the communication method further comprises providing a display interface to a user comprising user selectable functions to allow the user to select a destination for the combined outgoing multi-media mail.

35. (Currently Amended) The communication method of claim 25, wherein the communication method further comprises:

receiving incoming multi-media mail comprising incoming digital audio information and one or more other incoming multi-media data components; and

storing the incoming digital audio information and the one or more other incoming multi-media data components of the incoming multi-media mail.

36. (Currently Amended) The communication method of claim 35, wherein the communication method further comprises conveying the incoming multi-media mail to a the local user.

37. (Currently Amended) The communication method of claim 36, wherein conveying the incoming multi-media mail to the local user comprises displaying at least one of the one or more other incoming multi-media data components of the incoming multi-media mail to the local user.

38. (Currently Amended) The communication method of claim 36, wherein conveying the incoming multi-media mail to the local user comprises converting the incoming digital audio information of the incoming multi-media mail to local analog audio signals for conveyance to the local user.

Amendment and Response

Serial No.: 09/768,748

Confirmation No.: 3864

Filed: January 24, 2001

For: COMPUTER-BASED MULTI-MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND METHOD

39. (Currently Amended) The communication method of claim 35, wherein the communication method further comprises conveying at least one of the incoming digital audio information and the one or more other incoming multi-media data components of the incoming multi-media mail to another remote location.

40. (Currently Amended) The communication method of claim 35, wherein the communication method further comprises modifying at least a portion of at least one of the incoming digital audio information and the one or more other incoming multi-media data components of the incoming multi-media mail.

41. (Original) The communication method of claim 35, wherein the one or more other incoming multi-media data components comprise at least one of textual information and graphical information.

42. (Original) The communication method of claim 41, wherein the graphical information comprises at least one of picture information and video information.

43. (Original) The communication method of claim 35, wherein the incoming digital audio information comprises at least one file of incoming digital audio information.

44. (Original) The communication method of claim 35, wherein the incoming digital audio information comprises at least incoming compressed digital voice information.

45. (Currently Amended) The communication method of claim 35, wherein the communication method further comprises providing a display interface to a user to notify the user of the receipt of the incoming multi-media mail.

Amendment and Response

Serial No.: 09/768,748

Confirmation No.: 3864

Filed: January 24, 2001

For: COMPUTER-BASED MULTI-MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND METHOD

Page 10 of 31

46. (Currently Amended) The communication method of claim 35, wherein the communication method further comprises providing a display interface to a user comprising user selectable functions to allow the user to manipulate the received incoming multi-media mail.

47. (Original) The communication method of claim 46, wherein the user selectable functions comprise at least one of a forwarding function, a viewing function, an editing function, a playing function, a recording function, a storing function, and a deleting function.

48. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus comprising:

~~a modem a line interface operable for communication over a communications medium; one or more storage devices operable to store one or more outgoing multi-media data components, wherein each of the outgoing multi-media data components comprise one or more types of information, and further wherein the one or more types of information comprise at least one of textual information, graphical information, and audio information; and~~

~~processing and control circuitry operable under control of a user interface program, wherein the processing and control circuitry is operable to:~~

~~receive two or more stored outgoing multi-media data components, at least one of the two or more stored outgoing multi-media data components comprising a type of information different than another of the two or more stored outgoing multi-media data components,~~

~~combine the two or more stored outgoing multi-media data components resulting in combined outgoing multi-media mail, and~~

~~provide the combined outgoing multi-media mail to the line interface for communication to a remote location via the modem for connection to at least one packet switched network.~~

49. (Original) The communication apparatus of claim 48, wherein the communication apparatus further comprises an audio interface apparatus for use in generating local analog audio signals

Amendment and Response

Serial No.: 09/768,748

Confirmation No.: 3864

Filed: January 24, 2001

For: COMPUTER-BASED MULTI-MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND METHOD

Page 11 of 31

and for use in conveying audio signals to a local user, and wherein the processing and control circuitry is further operable to convert the local analog audio signals into outgoing digital audio information, wherein the outgoing digital audio information is provided for storage as one of the two or more stored outgoing multi-media data components.

50. (Original) The communication apparatus of claim 49, wherein the audio interface apparatus comprises a voice interface apparatus for use in generating local analog voice signals from a local user and for use in conveying voice signals to the local user, and wherein the processing and control circuitry is further operable to convert the local analog voice signals into outgoing digital voice information, wherein the outgoing digital voice information is provided for storage as one of the two or more stored outgoing multi-media data components.

51. (Original) The communication apparatus of claim 49, wherein the processing and control circuitry is further operable to compress the outgoing digital audio information, wherein the compressed outgoing digital audio information is provided for storage as one of the two or more stored outgoing multi-media data components.

52. (Original) The communication apparatus of claim 48, wherein the graphical information comprises at least one of picture information and video information.

53. (Currently Amended) The communication apparatus of claim 48, wherein the processing and control circuitry is operable to provide a display interface to a user comprising user selectable functions to allow the user to control the creation of the combined outgoing multi-media mail.

54. (Original) The communication apparatus of claim 53, wherein the user selectable functions comprise at least one of a composing function, a viewing function, an editing function, a playing function, a recording function, and a deleting function.

Amendment and Response

Serial No.: 09/768,748

Confirmation No.: 3864

Filed: January 24, 2001

For: COMPUTER-BASED MULTI-MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND METHOD

Page 12 of 31

55. (Currently Amended) The communication apparatus of claim 48, wherein the processing and control circuitry is operable to provide a display interface to a user comprising user selectable functions to allow the user to select a destination for the combined outgoing multi-media mail.

56. (Currently Amended) The communication apparatus of claim 48, wherein the processing and control circuitry is further operable to:

receive incoming multi-media mail comprising two or more incoming multi-media data components via the line interface, wherein each of the incoming multi-media data components comprises one or more types of information, wherein the one or more types of information comprise at least one of textual information, graphical information, and audio information, and further wherein at least one of the two or more incoming multi-media data components comprises a type of information different than another of the two or more incoming multi-media data components; and

store the two or more incoming multi-media data components of the incoming multi-media mail in the one or more storage devices.

57. (Currently Amended) The communication apparatus of claim 56, wherein the processing and control circuitry is further operable for use in conveying the incoming multi-media mail to a local user.

58. (Currently Amended) The communication apparatus of claim 57, wherein conveying the incoming multi-media mail to the local user comprises displaying at least one of the incoming multi-media data components of the incoming multi-media mail to the local user.

59. (Currently Amended) The communication apparatus of claim 57, wherein conveying the incoming multi-media components mail to the local user comprises converting at least one of the

Amendment and Response

Serial No.: 09/768,748

Confirmation No.: 3864

Filed: January 24, 2001

For: COMPUTER-BASED MULTI-MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND METHOD

Page 13 of 31

incoming multi-media data components of the incoming multi-media mail to local analog audio signals for conveyance to the local user.

60. (Currently Amended) The communication apparatus of claim 56, wherein the processing and control circuitry is further operable for use in conveying at least one of the incoming multi-media data components of the incoming multi-media mail to another remote location.

61. (Currently Amended) The communication apparatus of claim 56, wherein the processing and control circuitry is further operable for use in modifying at least a portion of at least one of the incoming multi-media data components of the incoming multi-media mail.

62. (Original) The communication apparatus of claim 56, wherein the graphical information comprises at least one of picture information and video information.

63. (Original) The communication apparatus of claim 56, wherein the audio information comprises at least compressed digital audio information.

64. (Original) The communication apparatus of claim 63, wherein the audio information comprises at least compressed digital voice information.

65. (Currently Amended) The communication apparatus of claim 56, wherein the processing and control circuitry is operable to provide a display interface to a user to notify the user of the receipt of the incoming multi-media mail.

66. (Currently Amended) The communication apparatus of claim 56, wherein the processing and control circuitry is operable to provide a display interface to a user comprising user selectable functions to allow the user to manipulate the received incoming multi-media mail.

Amendment and Response

Serial No.: 09/768,748

Confirmation No.: 3864

Filed: January 24, 2001

For: COMPUTER-BASED MULTI-MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND METHOD

Page 14 of 31

67. (Original) The communication apparatus of claim 66, wherein the user selectable functions comprise at least one of a forwarding function, a viewing function, an editing function, a playing function, a recording function, a storing function, and a deleting function.

68. (Currently Amended) The communication apparatus of claim 48, wherein the modem line interface is operable for full duplex communication over a communication medium.

69. (Currently Amended) A communication method implemented under control of a user interface program, the method comprising:

providing a modem;

providing one or more outgoing multi-media data components, wherein each of the outgoing multi-media data components comprises one or more types of information, and further wherein the one or more types of information comprise at least one of textual information, graphical information, and audio information;

combining, under control of a local user via input to the user interface program, two or more outgoing multi-media data components resulting in combined outgoing multi-media mail, wherein at least one of the two or more outgoing multi-media data components comprises a type of information different than another of the two or more outgoing multi-media data components; and

providing the combined outgoing multi-media mail for communication to a remote location via the modem for connection to at least one packet switched network.

70. (Original) The communication method of claim 69, wherein providing the one or more outgoing multi-media data components comprises:

generating local analog audio signals; and

converting the local analog audio signals into outgoing digital audio information, wherein the outgoing digital audio information is provided as at least one of the two or more outgoing multi-media data components.

Amendment and Response

Serial No.: 09/768,748

Confirmation No.: 3864

Filed: January 24, 2001

For: COMPUTER-BASED MULTI-MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND METHOD

Page 15 of 31

71. (Original) The communication method of claim 70, wherein generating local analog audio signals comprises generating local analog voice signals from a local user, and further wherein converting the local analog audio signals into outgoing digital audio information comprises converting the local analog voice signals into outgoing digital voice information, wherein the outgoing digital voice information is provided as at least one of the two or more outgoing multi-media data components.

72. (Original) The communication method of claim 70, wherein converting the local analog audio signals into outgoing digital audio information further comprises compressing the outgoing digital audio information, wherein the compressed outgoing digital audio information is provided as at least one of the two or more outgoing multi-media data components.

73. (Original) The communication method of claim 69, wherein the graphical information comprises at least one of picture information and video information.

74. (Currently Amended) The communication method of claim 69, wherein the communication method further comprises providing a display interface to a user comprising user selectable functions to allow the user to control the creation of the combined outgoing multi-media mail.

75. (Original) The communication method of claim 74, wherein the user selectable functions comprise at least one of a composing function, a viewing function, an editing function, a playing function, a recording function, and a deleting function.

76. (Currently Amended) The communication method of claim 69, wherein the communication method further comprises providing a display interface to a user comprising user selectable functions to allow the user to select a destination for the combined outgoing multi-media mail.

Amendment and Response

Serial No.: 09/768,748

Confirmation No.: 3864

Filed: January 24, 2001

For: COMPUTER-BASED MULTI-MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND METHOD

Page 16 of 31

77. (Currently Amended) The communication method of claim 69, wherein the communication method further comprises:

receiving incoming multi-media mail comprising two or more incoming multi-media data components, wherein each of the incoming multi-media data components comprises one or more types of information, wherein the one or more types of information comprise at least one of textual information, graphical information, and audio information, and further wherein at least one of the two or more incoming multi-media data components comprises a type of information different than another of the two or more incoming multi-media data components; and

- storing the two or more incoming multi-media data components of the incoming multi-media mail.

78. (Currently Amended) The communication method of claim 77, wherein the communication method further comprises conveying the incoming multi-media mail to a local user.

79. (Currently Amended) The communication method of claim 78, wherein conveying the incoming multi-media mail to the local user comprises displaying at least one of the incoming multi-media data components of the incoming multi-media mail to the local user.

80. (Currently Amended) The communication method of claim 78, wherein conveying the incoming multi-media mail to the local user comprises converting at least one of the incoming multi-media data components of the incoming multi-media mail to local analog audio signals for conveyance to the local user.

81. (Currently Amended) The communication method of claim 77, wherein the communication method further comprises conveying at least one of the incoming multi-media data components of the incoming multi-media mail to another remote location.

Amendment and Response

Serial No.: 09/768,748

Confirmation No.: 3864

Filed: January 24, 2001

For: COMPUTER-BASED MULTI-MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND METHOD

Page 17 of 31

82. (Currently Amended) The communication method of claim 77, wherein the communication method further comprises modifying at least a portion of at least one of the incoming multi-media data components of the incoming multi-media mail.

83. (Original) The communication method of claim 77, wherein the graphical information comprises at least one of picture information and video information.

84. (Currently Amended) The communication method of claim 77, wherein the communication method further comprises providing a display interface to a user to notify the user of the receipt of the incoming multi-media mail.

85. (Currently Amended) The communication method of claim 77, wherein the communication method further comprises providing a display interface to a user comprising user selectable functions to allow the user to manipulate the received incoming multi-media mail.

86. (Original) The communication method of claim 85, wherein the user selectable functions comprise at least one of a forwarding function, a viewing function, an editing function, a playing function, a recording function, a storing function, and a deleting function.

87. (New) A method for receiving information from a remote location, the method comprising:

 providing a modem;

 providing a personal computer, the modem operable under control of a graphical user interface associated with the personal computer;

 receiving a plurality of data packets via the modem from at least one packet switched network, wherein each of the plurality of data packets comprises one type of information, and further wherein each of the plurality of data packets comprises at least one header, the at least one header for use in routing the one type of information;

Amendment and Response

Serial No.: 09/768,748

Confirmation No.: 3864

Filed: January 24, 2001

For: COMPUTER-BASED MULTI-MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND METHOD

Page 18 of 31

removing and buffering the one type of information from each of the plurality of data packets; and

delivering sequentially the one type of information from each of the plurality of data packets to an output device associated with the personal computer based on the at least one header for each of the plurality of data packets.

88. (New) The method of claim 87, wherein delivering sequentially the one type of information to the output device occurs prior to completing receipt of the plurality of data packets.

89. (New) The method of claim 87, wherein the method further comprises controlling the output device associated with the personal computer with a windowing software application.

90. (New) The method of claim 87, wherein the method further comprises determining whether one or more of the plurality of data packets is a corrupt data packet, and discarding the corrupt data packet.

91. (New) The method of claim 87, wherein the method further comprises delivering the one type of information in a corrupt data packet to the output device without requesting retransmission of data of the corrupt data packet.

92. (New) The method of claim 87, wherein the one type of information comprises one of audio, textual, and graphical information.

93. (New) The method of claim 87, wherein the output device associated with the personal computer comprises at least one of a display device and a speaker.

94. (New) A method for receiving information from a remote location, the method comprising:
providing a modem;

Amendment and Response

Serial No.: 09/768,748

Confirmation No.: 3864

Filed: January 24, 2001

For: COMPUTER-BASED MULTI-MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND METHOD

Page 19 of 31

providing a personal computer, the modem operable under control of a graphical user interface associated with the personal computer;

receiving a plurality of data packets via the modem from at least one packet switched network, wherein the plurality of data packets comprise two or more different types of information, and further wherein each of the plurality of data packets comprises at least one header, the at least one header for use in routing the two or more different types of information;

removing the two or more different types of information from the plurality of data packets;

forming two or more data flows corresponding to the two or more different types of information;

buffering the two or more data flows; and

delivering the two or more data flows to at least one output device associated with the personal computer based on the at least one header for each of the plurality of data packets.

95. (New) The method of claim 94, wherein the two or more different types of information comprise audio, textual, and graphical information.

96. (New) The method of claim 94, wherein the graphical information comprises at least one of picture information and video information.

97. (New) The method of claim 94, wherein the at least one output device associated with the personal computer comprises one or more of a display device and a speaker.

98. (New) The method of claim 94, wherein the method further comprises determining that one or more of the plurality of data packets is a corrupt data packet, and discarding the corrupt data packet.

Amendment and Response

Serial No.: 09/768,748

Confirmation No.: 3864

Filed: January 24, 2001

For: COMPUTER-BASED MULTI-MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND METHOD

Page 20 of 31

99. (New) The method of claim 94, wherein delivering the two or more data flows comprises delivering the two or more data flows without requesting retransmission of data contained within a corrupt data packet of the plurality of data packets.

100. (New) A system for receiving multi-media information, the system comprising:

a modem;

processing circuitry operable under control of a graphical user interface program executable on a personal computer, wherein the processing circuitry is operable to:

receive a plurality of incoming data packets comprising one or more types of information via the modem from at least one packet switched network, wherein each of the plurality of incoming data packets comprises at least one header, the at least one header operable for use in routing the one or more types of information;

remove the one or more types of information from the plurality of incoming data packets;

store the one or more types of information from the plurality of incoming data packets;

assemble the one or more types of information from the plurality of incoming data packets to form at least one data flow; and

deliver the at least one data flow to one or more output devices associated with the personal computer based on the at least one header for each of the plurality of data packets.

101. (New) The system of claim 100, wherein the system is operable to begin delivery of the at least one data flow to the one or more output devices prior to completing receipt of the plurality of incoming data packets.

102. (New) The system of claim 100, wherein the one or more types of information comprise one or more of audio, textual, and graphical information.

Amendment and Response

Serial No.: 09/768,748

Confirmation No.: 3864

Filed: January 24, 2001

For: COMPUTER-BASED MULTI-MÉDIA COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND METHOD

Page 21 of 31

103. (New) The system of claim 102, wherein the graphical information comprises at least one of picture information and video information.

104. (New) The system of claim 100, wherein the graphical user interface program comprises a windowing software application.

105. (New) The system of claim 100, wherein the graphical user interface program comprises a display interface comprising user selectable functions to control communication of the one or more types of information to a user via the one or more output devices associated with the personal computer.

106. (New) A system for receiving information, the system comprising:

a modem; and

processing circuitry operable under control of a graphical user interface program executable on a personal computer, wherein the processing circuitry is operable to:

receive a plurality of data packets via the modem from at least one packet switched network, wherein the plurality of data packets comprise two or more different types of information, and further wherein each of the plurality of data packets comprises at least one header for use in routing the two or more different types of information;

remove and buffer the two or more different types of information from the plurality of data packets; and

deliver sequentially the two or more different types of information from the plurality of data packets to an output device associated with the personal computer based on the at least one header for each of the plurality of data packets.

107. (New) The system of claim 106, wherein the system is operable to begin delivery of the two or more different types of information to the output device prior to completing receipt of the plurality of data packets.

Amendment and Response

Serial No.: 09/768,748

Confirmation No.: 3864

Filed: January 24, 2001

For: COMPUTER-BASED MULTI-MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND METHOD

Page 22 of 31

108. (New) The system of claim 106, wherein the two or more different types of information comprise two or more of audio, textual, and graphical information.

109. (New) A method for receiving multi-media information on a personal computer from a remote location, the method comprising:

providing a modem, the modem operable under control of a graphical user interface associated with a personal computer;

receiving a plurality of data packets via the modem from at least one packet switched network, wherein the plurality of data packets comprise at least two different types of information, and further wherein each of the plurality of data packets comprises a header for use in routing the at least two different types of information;

removing and buffering the at least two different types of information from the plurality of data packets; and

delivering sequentially the at least two different types of information from the plurality of data packets to one or more output devices associated with the personal computer based on the header for each of the plurality of data packets, wherein delivering sequentially the at least two different types of information to the output device occurs prior to completing receipt of the plurality of data packets.

110. (New) The method of claim 109, wherein the at least two different types of information comprise at least two of audio, textual, and graphical information.

111. (New) The method of claim 109, wherein the method further comprises determining whether one or more of the plurality of data packets is a corrupt data packet, and discarding the corrupt data packet.

112. (New) The method of claim 109, wherein delivering sequentially the at least two different types of information comprises delivering sequentially the at least two different types of

Amendment and Response

Serial No.: 09/768,748

Confirmation No.: 3864

Filed: January 24, 2001

For: COMPUTER-BASED MULTI-MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND METHOD

Page 23 of 31

information without requesting retransmission of data contained within a corrupt data packet of the plurality of data packets.

113. (New) The method of claim 109, wherein the method further comprises controlling the one or more output devices with a windowing software application.

114. (New) The method of claim 109, wherein the one or more output devices comprise at least one speaker.

115. (New) The method of claim 109, wherein the one or more output devices comprise at least a video display device.